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MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF SAFETY OF BUCKS COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, 1774–1776.

[From the original in the library of General William Watts Hart Davis, Doylestown, Pennsylvania.]

At a meeting of a number of the inhabitants of the County of Bucks, held at Newtown, agreeable to notice given on Saturday, the 9th day of July, 1774, Gilbert Hicks, Esq., Chairman, and William Walton, clerk.

The Chairman having taken his place, in a short address to the Company, explained the nature and intention of the meeting, when they proceeded to the Business thereof, which was carried on and finished with the greatest Decency and Harmony.

In this time of public distress, when, by the operation of divers Acts of the British Parliament, the Americans are subjected to the universal controul of a Legislature in which they are not represented, the inhabitants of the County of Bucks, at a meeting held at Newtown, on the ninth day of July, appointed the following Gentlemen as a Committee to represent the said County at a meeting of the several Committees

of the respective Counties of Pennsylvania, to be held at Philadelphia the 15th day of July inst., viz.: John Kidd, Joseph Kirkbride, Joseph Hart, James Wallace, Henry Wynkoop, Samuel Foulke, and John Wilkinson, after which the sense of the inhabitants of the said County was recommended to them as general rules for their Conduct at the said meeting in the following resolves, viz.:

"*Resolved*, That the inhabitants of this County have the same opinion of the dangerous tendency of the Claims of the British Parliament to make laws, binding on the inhabitants of these Colonies in all Cases whatsoever, without their consent, as other of our fellow American subjects have.

"*Resolved*, That it is the Duty of every American, when oppressed by measures either of Ministry, Parliament, or any other Power, to use every lawful endeavour to obtain relief, and to form and promote a plan of Union between the parent country and colonies in which the Claim of the parent country may be ascertained and the Liberties of the Colonies defined and secured, and no Cause of Contention in future may arise to disturb that Harmony so necessary for the interest and happiness of both, and that this will be best done in a general Congress, to be composed of Delegates, to be appointed either by the respective colonys Assemblys, or by the Members thereof in Convention."

At a meeting of the Committee November 27, 1774, the following Notification was ordered to be published:

"To the Freeholders and Electors of the County of Bucks:

"As the late Continental Congress for the support of American Liberty have formed resolves, and entered into an Association in behalf of themselves and the respective Colonies they represented, and have recommended the appointment of Committees in several towns and Counties attentively to observe the Conduct of all persons touching the same; the Committee chosen for the County of Bucks in July apprehending that we have, to the best of our ability, executed the trusts then reposed in us, beg leave to recommend to

the Freeholders and Inhabitants of this County who are qualified to vote for Members of Assembly to meet at Newtown the 15th day of December next, to choose a new Committee for the above-mentioned purposes."

December 15, 1774.

This day, pursuant to a notice for that purpose, the following gentlemen were chosen as a Committee of Observation for this County, viz.: Joseph Galloway, John Kidd, Christian Minnick, John Bessonet, Joseph Kirkbride, Thomas Harvey, Thomas Jenks, Henry Kroesen, Joseph Hart, James Wallace, Richard Walker, John Wilkinson, Joshua Anderson, John Chapman, Jonathan Ingham, Joseph Watson, Benjamin Fell, John Kelley, David Waggoner, Abraham Stout, Thomas Foulke, John Jamison, Jacob Strahan, James Chapman, Henry Wynkoop, Jacob Beitleman, Thomas Darrach, Robert Patterson, David Twining.

Thursday, the 29th inst., is appointed for the meeting of this Committee at Newtown at 10 o'clock A.M. to enter upon their important trust.

Newtown, December 29, 1774.

"To the Committee of the County of Bucks:

"As the great fall of Snow hath prevented your attendance here this day, you are desired to meet at Newtown on Monday, the 16th day of January, to proceed upon the business for which you have been chosen."

Newtown, January 16, 1775.

A large majority of the Committee chosen in pursuance of notice for that purpose given, this day assembled in said town and unanimously chose Joseph Hart, Esq., Chairman and John Chapman, Clerk.

The Committee then taking into consideration the measures recommended by the Continental Congress for the redress of American Grievances, entered into the following resolves:

"1. That we highly approve of the pacific measures recommended by the Continental Congress for the redress of American Grievances, and do hereby render our unfeigned thanks to the worthy gentlemen who compose that august Assembly for the faithful discharge of the trust reposed in them.

"2. That we hold ourselves bound, in justice to ourselves, our posterity, our King, and our Country, strictly to observe and keep the Association of said Congress, especially as it is recommended to us by the united voice of our Representatives in Assembly, and, as a Committee, will use our utmost endeavours to have it carried into execution.

"3. That we hold it as our bounden duty, both as Christians and as Countrymen, to contribute towards the relief and support of the poor inhabitants of the town of Boston, now suffering in the general cause of all the Colonies; and we do hereby recommend the raising a sum of money for that purpose to every inhabitant or taxable in this County as soon as possible."

The Committee then taking into consideration a late resolve of the Committee of the City of Philadelphia, setting forth an absolute Necessity that the Committees of the Counties of this province, or their Deputies, be requested to meet together in Provincial Convention on the 23d day of January inst., cannot conceive from any information we have had, the necessity of such Provincial Convention or that any good effects can be produced thereby towards carrying into execution the Association so clearly pointed out to us by the Continental Congress.

Voted that Joseph Hart, John Wilkinson, Henry Wynkoop, Joseph Watson, and John Chapman, or any three of them, be a Committee of Correspondence; and that Henry Wynkoop be Treasurer to receive such charitable donations as may be collected in pursuance of the third resolve of this Committee.

May 2, 1775.

At a meeting of a Committee of Correspondence the following advertisement was ordered to be published:

"The Committee for the County of Bucks.

"The alarming situation of public affairs rendering it necessary that something should be done towards warding off the oppressive measures now too manifestly carrying into execution against us, you are therefore requested to meet at the house of Richard Leedom on Monday the 8th inst. at nine o'clock in the morning."

At a meeting of the Committee held at the house of Richard Leedom May 8, 1775:

"*Resolved*, unanimously; That we do heartily approve of the resolves of the late Provincial Convention, held at Philadelphia the 23d day of January last, and do earnestly recommend it to the observation of the inhabitants of this county.

"*Resolved*, unanimously; That notwithstanding the disapprobation we have hitherto shown to the prosecution of any violent measures of opposition, arising from the Hopes and Expectations, that the Humanity, Justice, and magnanimity of the British Nation would not fail of affording us relief, being now convinced, that all our most dutiful applications have hitherto been fruitless and vain, and that attempts are now making to carry the oppressive Acts of Parliament into execution by military force; We do therefore earnestly recommend to the people of this County to form themselves into Associations, in their respective Townships, to improve themselves in the military art, that they may be rendered capable of affording their Country that aid which its particular necessitys may at any time require."

Joseph Hart, John Kidd, Henry Wynkoop, Joseph Kirkbride, and James Wallace, or any three of them, are appointed as Delegates, to meet in provincial Convention, if any shall be found necessary.

The Committee requests all persons who have taken subscriptions for the relief of the poor of Boston, as soon as possible, to collect and pay the same into the hands of the Treasurer, Henry Wynkoop, that it may be speedily applyed

towards the benevolent purpose for which it was intended; and at the same time to give those who have not subscribed an opportunity to contribute also.

At a meeting June ye 12, 1775.

Present: Joseph Hart, John Kidd, Richard Walker, Robert Patterson, Henry Kroesen, James Wallace, Jacob Beitleman, Benjamin Fell, Thomas Darrach, and Henry Wynkoop.

The Treasurer informed the Committee that the sum of £51 15s. and 4d. had been paid into his hands for the relief of the poor sufferers of the town of Boston; whereupon ordered that Richard Walker and Henry Wynkoop dispose thereof in such manner as they shall judge most likely to answer the Benevolent purpose of the Donors.

Upon motion, Joseph Hart is appointed to publish an advertisement, notifying the officers of the different associated Companys to meet at the house of John Bogart the 20th day of July, to choose their Field Officers, and such other purposes as shall then be found necessary; the Committee to meet at the same time and place.

At a meeting at the house of John Bogart July 21, 1775.

Present a large majority.

Jacob Strahan, formerly chosen a member of this Committee for Haycock township, and Abraham Stout, for Rockhill, having declined acting, Philip Pearson was returned in the room of sd. Strahan and Samuel Smith in the room of sd. Stout, who are accepted as legal members.

The members appointed at the last meeting to dispose of the money collected for the relief of the poor of Boston, reported, that they had paid the same into the hands of Samuel Adams, one of the Delegates at the Continental Congress for the province of Massachusetts Bay, and produced a receipt from him for £51 15s. 4d.

Nicholas Patterson exhibited a complaint against Arthur Irwine, setting forth that, agreeable to a former recommendation of this Committee, the inhabitants of the township

of Tinicum, together with the sd. Arthur Irwine, had associated and proceeded to the choice of their officers, and that he, the said Nicholas Patterson, was chosen the Captain of the sd. company by a great majority; that notwithstanding the sd. Irwine had prevailed on a number of the men associated under the sd. Patterson, to choose him their Captain, and that he continues to muster them, to the disturbance of the Company of the sd. Patterson. The Committee taking the same in consideration, and having heard the defence of the said Irwine, are of opinion, that Nicholas Patterson hath been regularly chosen captain of the associated company of Tinicum, consequently the said Arthur Irwine cannot be considered as an officer in that township.

A petition was exhibited from Joseph McIlvain, William McIlvain, Abraham Britton, and John Priestly, officers of the associated Company of Bristol, setting forth, that attempts were making to raise a second company in that Township, whose Articles were essentially different from those of the other associated companies.

The Committee having taken the said Petition and Articles of association into consideration, are of opinion, that as harmony and unanimity are essentially necessary in prosecuting the present unhappy contest, and as Field Officers are now appointed for the respective Battalions, no second company ought to be raised in any Township without leave being first obtained from them for that purpose. Benjamin Hare informed that John Hoff had uttered expressions derogatory and injurious to the general American Cause; the said Hoff, voluntarily appearing before the Committee, acknowledged the charge, and made such concessions as were considered as a sufficient attonement for his former errors.

Benjamin Hair likewise informed that Thomas Meredith had uttered expressions inimicable to the Cause and Libertys of America in general and especially of the inhabitants of the town of Boston.

John Lacey represented that Thomas Smith, Upper Makefield, had uttered expressions derogatory to the continental Congress and inimicable to the Liberties of America.

The same being taken into consideration of Joseph Hart, Richard Walker, James Wallace, and Henry Wynkoop, or any three of them, are appointed a sub-committee to examine into the said complaints and report to the next meeting.

John Wilkinson, Jonathan Ingham, Thomas Foulke, and John Chapman, being of the people called Quakers and alledging scruples of Conscience relative to the business necessarily transacted by the Committee, desired to be relieved from any further attendance, whereupon Henry Wynkoop was appointed Clerk of the Committee and directed to publish the following advertisement:

"WHEREAS, Several persons who were chosen members of this Committee in December last have hitherto neglected to attend the same, and others who have attended, have, from Scruples of Conscience made application to be discharged, the Committee therefore request all those who do not propose attending for the future to advertise their respective townships with their determination, at the same time appointing some convenient time and place for the inhabitants to meet, and choose other suitable persons in their room, who are desired to meet the Committee on Monday, the 21st of August, at the house of John Bogart in Buckingham Township."

In Committee at John Bogart's August ye 21, 1775.

Pursuant to a public recommendation of the last meeting the following persons were returned and accepted as legal members of this Committee, viz.: Benjamin Seigle for the township of Richland in the room of Thomas Foulke; James McNair for the township of Upper Makefield in the room of John Chapman; Joseph Sackett for the township of Wrightstown in the room of John Wilkinson; Augustine Willet for the township of Middletown in the room of Thomas Jenks; John Coryel for the township of Solesbury in the room of Jonathan Ingham; William Carver for the township of Buckingham in the room of Joseph Watson. Sundry of the inhabitants of the township of Newtown offering to contest the Election held there,

it was recommended to them and agreed by both parties to hold a new election of which the Clerk is directed to notify the Electors of that township previous to the next meeting.

The Treasurer reported that he had received Donations from sundry townships for the sufferers of the town of Boston, amounting to £75 8s. 4d., and that he had paid the same into the hands of John Adams, one of the Committee of Boston, at the same time producing a receipt from him for that sum.

The sub-committee appointed to examine into the charges brought against Thomas Meredith and Thomas Smith reported that Thomas Meredith appeared before them, that the accusations against him were supported by Benjamin Hair, John Hair, and John Harry, and that the said Thomas Meredith thereupon executed the following Declaration and renunciation, viz.:

"WHEREAS, I have spoken injuriously of the distressed people of the town of Boston, and disrespectfully of the Measures prosecuting for the redress of American Grievances; I do hereby declare, that I am heartily sorry for what I have done, voluntarily renouncing my former principles, and promise for the future to render my Conduct inexceptionable to my Countrymen, by strictly adhering to the measures of the Congress. THOMAS MEREDITH."

That Thomas Smith, upon a second notice, appeared before them; that he denied the greatest part of what was alledged against him; that thereupon John Lacy the complainant, together with the said Thomas Smith, were desired to appear before the Committee this day, and that notice had likewise been given to James McMasters and Josiah Daws to appear to testify their knowledge of what the said Thomas Smith was accused with. That, as the Committee of Safety had requested the Committees of the respective Counties of this Province to make return to them of all Officers of the Military Association that they might be Commissioned, and also lists of the Associators and Non-Associators, within their respective Districts; they had

published an advertisement requesting the Colonels of the several Battalions to furnish the Committee at this meeting with Lists of all Officers within their District, and that the Captains of the associated companys were likewise requested to return exact Lists of Associators and Non-Associators in their townships. All which is submitted to the Committee.

Voted that the Declaration of Thomas Meredith is considered as satisfactory and ordered to be published.

The Committee then resumed the consideration of the complaint made against Thomas Smith, and having heard the Testimony of John Lacy, James McMasters, and a letter from Josiah Daws, he being necessarily absent, and likewise the defence of said Thomas Smith. Voted that the charges laid against said Thomas Smith have been fully supported by Evidence, and the said Thomas Smith refusing to make any satisfaction for his misconduct, the Clerk is directed to publish the following state of his case, viz.:

"Proof having been made by incontestable evidence that Thomas Smith, of Upper Makefield, had uttered expression to the following purport, viz.: That the Measures of Congress had already enslaved America and done more Damage than all the Acts the Parliament ever intended to lay upon us, that the whole was nothing but a scheme of a parcel of hot-headed Presbyterians and that he believed the Devil was at the Bottom of the whole; that the taking up Arms was the most scandalous thing a man could be guilty of, and more heinous than an hundred of the grossest offences against the moral law, &c., &c., &c.

"*Resolved*, That as the above virulent and indecent Invectives appear manifestly designed to cast the grossest indignity upon the Honourable the Continental Congress, to raise inviduous Distinctions between different denominations and to impede the virtuous struggles of our distressed Countrymen against Ministerial Oppression, the said Thomas Smith be considered as an Enemy to the Rights of British America, and that all persons break off every kind of dealing with him until he shall make proper satisfaction to this Committee for his misconduct."

In Committee at Newtown September 11, 1775.

Present: Joseph Hart, James McNair, Joseph Kirkbride, John Coryel, John Kidd, Samuel Yardley, Henry Wynkoop, Augustine Willett, John Bessonet, Joseph Sackett, Christian Minnick, Robert Patterson, James Chapman, Benjamin Fell, Henry Kroesen, Jacob Beitleman, Richard Walker.

The Clerk informed the Committee that, agreeable to order, he had sent the case of Thomas Smith to the Press for publication, but that sd. Smith expressing remorse and penitence and promising to appear before the Committee this day and make satisfactory acknowledgement for his misconduct, its publication had been postponed.

Thomas Smith appearing before the Committee voluntarily executed the following acknowledgement and declaration, viz.:

"As I have been charged before the Committee for having uttered expressions derogatory to the Continental Congress, inviduous to a particular Denomination of Christians, and tending to impede the opposition of our Countrymen to Ministerial Oppression, I do hereby declare myself heartily sorry for my imprudent expressions and do sincerely promise for the future to coincide with every measure prosecuted for the redress of American Grievances so far as is consistent with the religious principles of the society to which I belong. THOMAS SMITH."

Voted that this be considered as a sufficient satisfaction for his misconduct, and ordered that the Clerk publish it as such.

Samuel Yardley returned Committeeman for the township of Newtown and accepted as a legal member.

Three of the members of the Committee of Correspondence having resigned, James Wallace, Joseph Sackett, and Samuel Yardley are appointed in their stead.

Benjamin Fell informs the Committee that Edward Updegrave and John Rogers have at sundry times spoken dis-

respectfully of the Congress, etc., and that Bernard Kepler, Mary Bogart, and Elizabeth McCauley can give Evidence to the same. It is therefore ordered that Benjamin Fell, William Carver, John Coryel, Joseph Hart, Henry Wynkoop, and James Wallace, or any three of them, be a special Committee to inquire into the premises and make report to this Committee at their next meeting.

The Committee then adjourned to meet at the house of John Bogart ye 9th of October.

In Committee at John Bogart's October 9, 1775.

Present: Joseph Hart, Thomas Darrach, James Wallace, Benjamin Seigle, Richard Walker, Augustine Willett, Robert Patterson, Joseph Sackett, John Jamison, James McNair, Henry Wynkoop, Samuel Yardley.

The Sub-committee appointed to hear the Complaint against Edward Updegrave and John Rogers reported: That in consequence of notice given to sd. Updegrave and Rogers, sd. Updegrave had appeared before them; that upon inquiry they found he had uttered some imprudent expressions, affronting to the Associated company of Plumstead, for which he appeared penitent and promised to meet them, acknowledge his fault, and ask their pardon. That John Rogers had not appeared before them, and that notice had been given him to appear before the Committee this day.

The Committee, then taking the sd. report into consideration, are of opinion that the Concessions made by Edward Updegrave are a sufficient satisfaction for his misconduct; and that the case of John Rogers be held under advisement till the next meeting.

William Buckman appearing before the Committee requested a Certificate setting forth that Nathaniel Twining had absconded with a view to defraud his creditors, expecting thereby to facilitate his pursuit of sd. Twining into the Provinces of Maryland or Virginia.

Which is considered as an improper motion.

The Treasurer reported that the sum of £125 15s. 7d.,

collected for the sufferers by the Boston Port Act, was now in his hands.

Ordered thereupon that Treasurer dispose of the said money in such manner as shall be most likely to answer the benevolent purpose of the Donors.

The Committee then adjourned to meet at this place ye 23d of November.

In Committee at John Bogart's November ye 23d, 1775.

Present: Joseph Hart, Benjamin Fell, Richard Walker, James McNair, Robert Patterson, Thomas Darragh, James Wallace, John Coryel, Henry Kroesen, and Henry Wynkoop.

The Committee, taking the case of John Rogers into consideration, and having examined Mary Bogart, said to be the principal witness against him, are of opinion that the offence as well as the offender are too insignificant to deserve any further notice of this Committee.

It being now near the expiration of one year since the present Committee was chosen, and the Board being of opinion a new choice ought to be annually made, do recommend each member to advertise the inhabitants of his township, to meet at the most convenient place in each township for that purpose, on the sixteenth day of December.

The Treasurer informed the Committee that to comply with the order of the nineteenth of October he had paid the moneys then collected into the hands of Samuel Adams, chairman of the Committee appointed by the General Court of the Province of Massachusetts Bay, to dispose of the Contributions for the Relief of the Sufferers by the Boston Port Bill, and produced a receipt from him for the sum of £125 15s. 7d.

December ye 26th is appointed for the meeting of the new Committee at this place.

In Committee December 26, 1775.

The following persons were returned as members in Committee in their respective Townships for the ensuing year, viz.:

Upper Makefield, James McNair; *Springfield*, Josiah Brian; *Rockhill*, Samuel Smith; *Buckingham*, John Lacey; *Northampton*, Henry Wynkoop; *Wrightstown*, Joseph Sackett; *Bensalem*, John Kidd, James Benezet; *Solesbury*, John Coryel; *The Falls*, Thomas Harvey, William Biles; *Bristol*, Joseph McIlvain, John Cox; *Newtown*, Samuel Yardley; *Southampton*, Arthur Watts; *Warrington*, Richard Walker; *Warminster*, Joseph Hart; *Plumstead*, Benjamin Fell; *Haycock*, Adam Lowdenleger; *Tinicum*, Robert Patterson; *Warwick*, James Wallace.

Joseph Hart was appointed Chairman, Henry Wynkoop Clerk and Treasurer, and Joseph Hart, James Wallace, Samuel Yardley, Arthur Watts, Henry Wynkoop were chosen Committee of Correspondence for the ensuing year.

The Committee being apprehensive that certain Shopkeepers within this County have not been sufficiently attentive to the Continental Association respecting the price of goods, the Clerk is directed to publish the 9th article of sd. Association with the following preamble annexed, viz.:

"This Committee, desires as much as possible to prevent every species of imposition and extortion which designing persons, prompted by a sordid attachment to private interests and present scarcity of sundry articles of merchandize, may be tempted to commit, have directed the republication of the 9th article of the Continental Association; and all Shopkeepers and other Retailers of Goods are requested to be particularly attentive thereto, as a wilful violation thereof will necessarily incur the penalties recommended in this and the 11th Article of said Association."

Each member of this Committee is likewise particularly enjoined to use his influence within their respective neighborhoods for suppressing as much as possible that growing evil.

Joseph McIlvain and John Cox having informed the Committee that they had been instructed that William Walton had drank damnation to the Congress and uttered expressions derogatory to that Honorable Body and disrespectful to the present public measures.

Ordered that John Kidd, James Benezet, Thomas Harvey, Joseph McIlvain, and John Cox be a sub-committee to inquire into this matter and make report to the next meeting.

The Committee, taking into consideration the late resolves of the Assembly of this Province respecting the Military Association and the Laws passed for its regulation by that Body, do earnestly recommend to every Member of this Board to use his influence within his township and neighbourhood to induce the people to sign and submit to the same.

In Committee by particular request from the Committee of Safety, January 22, 1776.

Present: Joseph Hart, John Coryel, Robert Patterson, Robert Shewel, *New Brittain*, Richard Walker, Arthur Watts, John Cox, James McNair, John Lacey, Thomas Jones, *Hiltown*, Joshua Anderson, *Lower Makefield*, Henry Wynkoop, James Wallace, Samuel Smith, Joseph McIlvain, Thomas Darrah, *Bedminster*, Samuel Yardley, Josiah Brian, Joseph Sackett, Benjamin Seigle, William Biles, Benjamin Fell, Thomas Harvey, Andrew Trumbower, *Lower Milford*, James Benezet.

Messrs. James Biddle and Joseph Wharton, members of the Committee of Safety for this Province, delivered the following letters from that Board, viz.:

In Committee of Safety.

"PHILADELPHIA, January ye 10, 1776.

"GENTLEMEN,—The Committee of Safety have published a process for the making of Saltpetre, which they hope will induce the inhabitants of the Colony generally to set about the work, but as no Description, however exact, so fully answers the purpose of instruction as the actual exhibition of the Process, the Committee have resolved to employ a number of persons to go through the Country to instruct the people in this necessary branch of Manufacture. It is therefore requested of you to send two persons to this city to obtain a competent Knowledge of the method practiced

at the Saltpetre Work here, that they may be qualified to exhibit the process to such inhabitants of your County as are desirous of being useful to their Country at this important and dangerous Crisis of our Affairs.

"It is referred to you to make such agreement for the public with the persons you employ on this Service as you may think just and reasonable. Their expenses to and from the City and while they remain here for instruction will be also allowed by the Committee of Safety.

"*By order of the Committee,*

"JOHN NIXON,

"*Chairman.*

"To the Committee of Bucks County."

In Committee of Safety.

"PHILADELPHIA, January ye 10, 1776.

"GENTLEMEN,—The better to encourage people at a Distance from this City to enter into the manufacture of Saltpetre with Spirit, we request you would appoint a proper person in your County to receive all that shall be made there, and give notice to this Board and also public notice of such appointment. As soon as we have notice, we shall furnish such person with Power to pay in that Article one-fourth the value of the Saltpetre according to our former proposals, and the rest of the price we shall pay to the order of the Officer appointed, who is to send the Saltpetre he shall receive from time to time, as opportunity shall offer, to Mr. Robert Towers our Commissary in this city.

"*By order of the Committee,*

"JOHN NIXON,

"*Chairman.*

"To the Committee of
"The County of Bucks."

The above letters having been read and considered, Messrs. James Wallace, Andrew Kichlein, and Joseph Fenton, Junr, were appointed to go to Philadelphia to be instructed in the method of making Saltpetre. And James Wallace is appointed the Officer to receive the Saltpetre

which shall be manufactured in this County agreeable to the request made in the sd. letters by the Committee of Safety.

Representation being made to this Board that the inhabitants of a certain District within this County, on the border of Northampton County, who have lately been established into a Township by the name of Durham, were desirous to receive the Direction of this Committee relative to the mode of obtaining a Representative in this Board, it was ordered that public notice be given to the inhabitants of sd. Township to meet and choose a person for that purpose.

The Sub-committee appointed to examine the charge laid against Mr. William Walton reported as follows, viz.:

"On the 30th December, 1775, four of the Committee met to enquire into the truth of the charge laid against Mr. Walton, who appeared and also the witnesses, but on objection of Mr. Walton to the proceeding of the Committee until the whole of them had assembled and the fifth gentleman appointed to this business not being able to attend, on account of sickness; the members then present thought it proper to adjourn the matter to a further day, viz., to the 6th of January.

"The Committee then met, Mr. Walton appeared, and objected to answer until he saw his accusers face to face. The Committee waited from 11 o'clock in the morning untill four in the afternoon, the witnesses nor any of them appearing, though directed and having promised to attend, your Committee thought proper to make this report of their proceeding.

"JOHN KIDD, JOSEPH McILVAIN,
"JOHN COX, JAMES BENEZET,
"THOMAS HARVEY.

"*Resolved*, That this matter be held under advisement until the next meeting, and the aforesd. Committee are requested to have a strict regard to the conduct of sd. Walton during that time."

The Committee then adjourned to February 27, 1776.

In Committee at John Bogart's February 27, 1776.

Present: Joseph Hart, John Coryel, Richard Walker, Samuel Smith, Robert Patterson, James McNair, James Wallace, Benjamin Siegel, Adam Lowdesleger, Benjamin Fell.

"*Resolved,* That the following petition be presented to the Assembly relative to the Military Association:

"That as a general uneasiness prevails among the Associators in this County on account of the late Military Resolutions of this Honorable House, and many persons have signed them under a full persuasion that amendments would be made therein; And as there are many able-bodied men between the age of fifty and sixty years, possessed of large estates, who are entirely exempt from Military Duty and Expense, your petitioners therefore humbly prays that the Association may be extended to the age of sixty.

"And as the Tax upon Non-Associators is considered merely as an equivalent for personal services, and the Associators have not Compensation for their Arms and Accoutrements, not to mention the danger they will be exposed to when called into actual service, Your petitioners pray that an additional Tax be laid upon the Estates of Non-Associators proportionate to the expenses of the Associators necessarily incurred for the general Defence of Property.

"And as by marching whole Battalions or Companies of Militia large tracts of Country will be left destitute of Men, except those who either hold all Resistance unlawful, or such as are disaffected to the present Measures, Your petitioners therefore beg leave to submit to the consideration of the House, whether it would not be better to direct the Colonels to draught from their Battalions such number as shall from time to time be requisite, thereby affording an opportunity for those whose circumstances will not always admit their going to get Volunteers in their stead, and at the same time leaving sufficient force in every part of the Country to quell any local Insurrections.

"All which your Petitioners humbly pray may be taken into the consideration of the House and such Amendments made as you in your Wisdom shall seem meet."

Complaint being made that John Burrows, Jr., had uttered expressions inimicable to the Cause of America. Ordered that John Coryel, James McNair, Joseph Sackett, Samuel Yardley, and Joshua Anderson, or any three of them, be a Special Committee to examine the Evidences and make report thereof to the next meeting.

The Committee then adjourned to March 27th.

In Committee at John Bogart's March 27, 1776.

Present: Joseph Hart, James Benezet, Richard Walker, Samuel Smith, Arthur Watts, John Sample, James Wallace, Samuel Yardley, James McNair, William Biles, Robert Patterson, John Kidd, Adam Lowdesleger, Jacob Beitleman, Andrew Trumbower, John Cox, Thomas Darrah, Thomas Long, Joseph Sackett.

The Committee appointed to enquire into the charge laid against John Burrows, Jr., do report that upon proper examination it appeared that the words charged against him had been spoken heedlessly, the party saying he could not recollect to have said anything with an intention to offend, but if he had spoken disrespectfully he was very sorry for it, and promised to demean himself better for the future.

"*Resolved*, Therefore, that this excuse be allowed."

A letter from the Committee of Safety, dated March 19, 1776, requesting that the Associators in this County be properly equipped so as to be in condition to march at an hour's warning, and that a strict attention be paid to their Arms and Accoutrements, and there is the greatest reason to apprehend that Gen. Howe intends an attack upon this Province.

Also another letter from that Committee, dated March 23, 1776, requesting this Board to appoint proper persons to purchase such Muskets in this County as are in the hands of Non-Associators or can be spared, for the use of the Battalions raised in this Province for the Continental Ser-

vice, and the Battalion of Musketeers raised for our provincial defence.

Said letters having been read and considered, "*Resolved*, That every Member of this Committee do as soon as possible purchase all the Arms within his respective Township which he shall judge fit for service and are not made use of by Associators or their owners shall be willing to part with upon reasonable terms, and that the same be delivered to Henry Wynkoop, James Wallace, or Samuel Smith, who are hereby appointed to receive them and send them to Philadelphia agreeable to the request of the Committee of Safety. And that information be given to the Colonels of the different Battalions of Associators in this County of the present critical situation of our affairs, and that they be requested to use their utmost abilities and diligence to put the several Battalions in the best order that the nature of the thing will admit of, to be ready to march immediately if it should be thought necessary; and it is expected and required that every member of this Board do everything in his power to assist the officers in carrying the above resolve into execution."

Upon motion, "*Resolved*, That for the future fifteen members met, and no less, shall be considered a Board capable to transact business."

The Committee then adjourned to April 24, 1776.

In Committee at John Bogart's April 24, 1776.

Present: Joseph Hart, Thomas Long, Richard Walker, James McNair, Robert Shewell, James Wallace, John Cox, Joseph Sackett, Arthur Watts, Robert Patterson, John Sampler, William Biles, Jacob Beitleman, Samuel Yardley, Joshua Brian, Joshua Anderson, Samuel Smith, Henry Wynkoop, Adam Lowdesleger.

Upon motion "*Resolved*, That the sum of 1s. 6d. shall be paid by each Member who shall not attend within the space of one hour after the time appointed for the meeting of this Committee, and that Mr. Walker be the Collector of the sd. fines."

Richard Walker, Esq., being in the Chair, Mr. Hart, as Colonel of the 2d Battalion of Associators in this County made return of the Field Officers of that Battalion as chosen by the Officers thereof, viz.: Joseph Hart, Colonel; Robert Shewell, Lieutenant-Colonel; James McMasters, first Major, Gilbert Rodman, second Major; Joseph Shaw, Standard Bearer, and William Thompson, Adjutant, which was accordingly certified to the Speaker of the Assembly, agreeable to a late resolve of that body.

The Committee appointed to examine into the charge against Thomas Blacklidge reported that they apprehended the witnesses had not understood Mr. Blacklidge, and that he declared that he wished well to the Libertys of America, and would support its freedom as far as was consistent with the religious principles of the Society to which he belongs:

"*Resolved*, Therefore, that Mr. Blacklidge is fully acquitted from the said charge."

The Committee then adjourned to May ye 22.

In Committee at John Bogart's May 22, 1776.

Present: Joseph Hart, Samuel Yardley, James Benezet, James Wallace, John Cox, Arthur Watts, John Kidd, Joseph Sackett, Jacob Beitleman, Richard Walker, Joseph McIlvain, John Sampler, Benjamin Siegle, James McNair, Robert Patterson, Gilbert Hicks, Samuel Smith, Thomas Harvey, Benjamin Fell, William Biles, John Coryel, Thomas Long, Henry Wynkoop, Adam Lowdesleger, Josiah Brian.

Gilbert Hicks returned as Committeeman for the Township of Middletown.

The Committee receiving a letter from the Committee of Safety reminding this Board that the Assembly of this Province, by five Resolves of the 6th of April last, did provide for disarming disaffected persons, and procuring the Arms of Non-associators in this Province, to be applied to the arming the Continental Troops raised in this Colony,

the Troops raised in its own special Defence, and the residue for the Associators; as the necessity for Fire-locks at this alarming conjuncture is very pressing, they request this Board to refer to the sd. Resolves without delay, and make report to them with all possible speed. After mature consideration of the above letter:

"*Resolved*, That the inhabitants of those Townships in this County who have not already elected persons to take up the Arms of Non-associators, agreeably to late Resolves of the Assembly of this Province, be requested to meet on Saturday the 8th of June and choose three persons for that purpose, And that the Members of this Committee advertise this Resolve at some of the most public places in their respective Townships, with the place and hour of meeting. And it is recommended to those persons who shall be so chosen, to join in districts in the following order, viz.:

"Bristol Falls and Middletown; Bensalem, South Hampton, and Northampton; Warminster, Warwick, and Warrington; Newtown, Lower Makefield, and Upper Makefield; Wrightstown, Buckingham, and Solesbury; Plumstead, Bedminster, Tinicum; New Brittain, Rockhill, and Hiltown; Milford, Haycock, and Richland; Springfield, Nockamixon, and Durham."

Messrs. David Jones and Joseph Watkins having produced a letter from the Committee of Inspection of Philadelphia requesting this Board to nominate a certain number of their members to meet Deputies from the other Counties of this Province in Philadelphia on Tuesday the 18th day of next month, in order to agree upon and direct the mode of electing Members for a Provincial Convention, to be held at such time and place as the sd. Conference of Committees may appoint, for the express purpose of forming and establishing a new form of Government.

The said letter, together with some other papers to the same purport, having been read and considered:

"*Resolved*, That, as this is a matter of very great consequence and ought to be considered with the utmost deliberation, the same be held under advisement until Monday the

10th of June, when this Committee will meet and give an answer to the said letter."

In the mean time every Member of this Board will collect as much as possible the sense of his Township on this important subject.

The Committee then adjourned to Monday 10th June.

In Committee at Newtown June 10, 1776.

Present: Joseph Hart, Joshua Anderson, John Kidd, Benjamin Seigle, Richard Walker, Jacob Beitleman, James Benezet, Samuel Smith, Robert Patterson, Benjamin Fell, Joseph Sackett, John Sampler, William Biles, John Coryel, James McNair, Samuel Yardley, Arthur Watts, James Wallace, Andrew Trumbower, Gilbert Hicks, Adam Lowdesleger, Thomas Long, Josiah Brian, Thomas Jones, John Cox, Thomas Harvey, Henry Wynkoop.

The Committee taking into consideration the request of the Committee of Inspection of Philadelphia relative to the appointment of Deputies to meet the other Counties of this Province in Provincial Conference at Philadelphia on Tuesday the 18th day of June for the purposes above recited. The members having reported the sense of the inhabitants of their respective Townships and the whole matter having been debated and considered, the question was put whether this Board will appoint Deputies agreeable to the request of the Committee of Philadelphia, or whether the Assembly be considered as competent to regulate the Interval Police of this Colony agreeable to the Resolve of the Continental Congress of the 15th of May last, which was carried in favor of Deputies being appointed by a great majority.

The Committee then appointed Joseph Hart, John Kidd, James Wallace, Benjamin Siegle, and Henry Wynkoop, or any three of them, to attend the said Conference.

The Committee being informed that sundry Townships had neglected to choose persons for receiving the arms of Non-associators, agreeable to a late resolve of the Assembly of this Province, as requested by this Committee at their

last meeting, the following persons were appointed for that purpose by this Board, viz.:

John Crawford, James Barclay, and William Long for *Warrington;* Daniel Larew, Richard Rue, and Thomas Miller for *Middletown;* William Thompson, John Johnson, and Simon Sackett for *Wrightstown;* John Klyne, Peter Sampson, and John Freeze for *Milford;* Theophilus Foulke, Philip Smith, and Peter Wykle for *Richland;* Peter Henry, Jacob Hartzel, and George Phillips for *Rockhill.*

It being represented that the Borough of Bristol had been omitted in laying off the different Townships into Districts, and that the inhabitants thereof had elected persons for executing the Resolve of Assembly relating to the Arms of Non-associators within the Borough.

It was resolved that the sd. Borough be joined in District with the Falls, Middletown, and Bensalem Townships.

James Scout being charged before this Committee with the following expressions, viz.: The said Scout asked John Dorland before several people whether he was an Independent in his Principles, Dorland replying he was, Scout then said, You are going to open a door to Eternal Tyrrany and give a loose to every Usurper, Dorland asking who he meant by Usurpers, he said, The cursed Congress and Committee of Safety; The said charge having been fully proven against the said Scout, he begged pardon for those imprudent expressions, declaring he was firmly attached to the Cause of America, and promised for the future to be more guarded and to avoid such indecent language, and neither to say or do anything contrary to the Interests of America.

The Committee thereupon dismissed him, being satisfied with those concessions.

The Committee then adjourned to Monday July ye 1st.

In Committee at John Bogart's Monday July ye 1, 1776.

Present: Joseph Hart, John Coryel, Thomas Darragh, Joseph Sackett, Samuel Smith, Robert Patterson, Benjamin Siegel, Robert Shewell, Adam Lowdesleger, John Sampler, Josiah Brian, Richard Walker, Arthur Watts, John Cox,

James Wallace, Joshua Anderson, Thomas Long, Benjamin Fell, James McNair, Jacob Beitleman, James Benezet, Henry Wynkoop, Thomas Jones.

The Committee, being informed that sundry persons had refused to surrender the Arms in their possession to the collectors of Arms, appointed agreeable to a late Resolve of the Assembly of this Province,

"*Resolved*, That, where such refusal shall happen in any township, the militia be called upon for enforcing sd. Resolve, and that the Collectors of the Arms apply to the colonel or in his absence the next in command of the battalion to which the associators of that township belong, who shall thereupon give orders to such officer and such number of men as he shall apprehend proper and sufficient to enforce the said resolve of assembly."

A complaint, partly verbal and partly by petition, being exhibited to the Board against Andrew Kichlein, colonel of the 3d Battalion of Associators in this County, that he had used undue influence in procuring himself elected, and that he rendered himself incapable of commanding by excessive drinking; from Joseph Savitz and John Loudwick, Valentine Up, George Hurleur, Henry Hover, Benjamin Seigle, and Michael Smith, Captains of companies. The Committee agreed to take the same into consideration at their next meeting, and ordered that the parties be notified and requested to attend. The Board being informed that George Waln, who had been elected by the inhabitants of Solesbury one of the persons to receive the arms of Non-associators in that Township, declined acting therein. The committee appointed Henry Lott, Jr., as Collector of Arms in the room of said Waln.

The Committee likewise appointed Joseph Shaw, John Kelley, and Jarret Irvine to collect the arms in Hiltown.

On motion "*Resolved*, That Joseph Hart, Thomas Long, Samuel Smith, Benjamin Fell, and Robert Patterson be and they are hereby appointed to meet a Deputation from the Committee of Northampton County to settle the quota of Field officers to be appointed for the Battalion to be

raised by those two counties agreeable to a resolve of the late Provincial Conference."

The Committee appointed Solomon Gruber and Philip Sheets in the room of Theophilus Foulke and Peter Wikle as Collectors of arms in the township of Richland. The Collectors of arms in Rockhill reported they had received thirty-nine guns.

The Committee adjourned to 10th July, 1776.

In Committee 10*th July*, 1776.

Present: Joseph Hart, Andrew Trumbower, Richard Walker, Adam Lowdesleger, James Benezet, John Coryel, Joseph Sackett, John Sampler, Arthur Watts, Benjamin Fell, James Wallace, Josiah Brian, Robert Patterson, Samuel Smith, Henry Wynkoop, Thomas Long.

"*Resolved*, That this Committee will use their utmost endeavors that the Resolve of the late Provincial Conference for embodying four hundred of the Associators of this County be immediately put into execution, and that the following gentlemen be appointed officers, being the proportion allotted to this County, viz.: Joseph Hart, colonel; Captains, John Folowell, William Roberts, William Hart, Valentine Up, and John Jamison; 1st Lieutenants, John Kroesen, Henry Darrach, Hugh Long, Philip Trumbower, and Tennis Middlemart; 2d Lieutenants, Abram DuBois, James Shaw, Jacob Drake, Samuel Deane, and John Irvine; Ensigns, Mr. McKissack, William Hines, Joseph Hart, Stoffel Keller, and John McCammon; Adjutant, John Johnson; Surgeon, Joseph Benton, Jr.; Quartermaster, Alexander Benstead.

"*Resolved*, That where any person or persons within any Township of this County shall refuse to deliver his or their fire-arms to the Collectors of arms, either chosen or appointed, agreeable to a late Resolve of the Assembly of this Province, the said Collectors or any one of them apply to the Colonel, or in his absence the next in command of the Battalion to which the Associators of that Township belong, who shall thereupon give orders to such Officer and

such number of men as he shall apprehend proper and sufficient to enforce the said Resolve of Assembly.

"*Resolved,* That where it shall appear to the Collectors of Arms that any person or persons have been in possession of good Fire-arms and do not deliver them, or satisfy the Collectors where they are, the said Collectors, or any of them, cite such person or persons to appear before this Committee at their next meeting and satisfy this Board how the said arms have been disposed of."

Agreeable to two Resolves of the Committee of Safety of this Province this Committee have appointed Gerret Dungan to cause the fire-arms collected from Non-associators in this County to be immediately rendered fit for use, and Matthew Bennett is appointed for the first Battalion and Jared Irvine for the 2d, 3d, and 4th Battalions of Associators in this County to size the guns and mark the size on the breech-pin or lower end of the barrel.

An account was produced to this Board of the arms collected in Bedminster, being thirteen fit for service.

A letter was produced to the Board from the Committee of Safety, containing a resolve of that Board, to furnish each Battalion of Associators in this County with two quarter casks of powder, and requesting this Board to send to the Commissary Robert Towers for the same and distribute it to the different colonels.

"*Resolved,* That the Chairman grant orders to the different Colonels for receiving said powder from the Provincial Commissary."

The Collectors of arms in Haycock Township reported they had received two guns.

Major James McMasters, Captain John McKonkey, and Mr. John Keith are appointed to collect the fire-arms in Upper Makefield, in the room of Barnet Vanhorn, John Burleigh, and James Torbet, who decline serving.

Captain John Jamison and Philip Grisler informed the Board that Stoffel Suckafuss had assaulted the said Grisler, destroyed the gun of sd. Jamison, and uttered many expressions discovering a violent enmity to the Libertys of

America. The Committee appointed Mr. Patterson, Mr. Fell, Mr. Long, Mr. Trumbower, and Mr. Brian, or any three of them, a sub-committee to enquire into the said charge, and report to the next meeting.

Information being made to the Committee that Jeremiah Vastine, a Non-Associator, had bought up a number of guns without any proper authority:

"*Resolved*, Therefore, that the Chairman immediately issue a precept to apprehend the said Vastine to bring him before the following gentlemen, viz.: Joseph Hart, James Wallace, Arthur Watts, Richard Walker, and Henry Wynkoop, or any three of them, who are appointed a Sub-committee to enquire into the said matter, and report to the next meeting of this Board."

John Bogart produced an account for Continental services, amount £9 5s. 1d., which is ordered to be recommended to the Committee of Continental accounts as just.

Philip Stever and Mathias Hartman are appointed Collectors of arms in Haycock Township in the room of Philip Hering and John Mill.

Valentine Up, Rudolph Croman, and John Esterly are appointed Collectors of arms in Springfield township, in the room of Ellis Roxbury, Christopher Wagner, and John Esterly.

The Committee adjourned to the 29th July.

In Committee, 29th July, 1776, *at John Bogart's.*

Present: Joseph Hart, Robert Shewell, Richard Walker, Arthur Watts, Benjamin Seigle, James McNair, Joseph Sackett, John Sampler, Benjamin Fell, Robert Patterson, Thomas Jones, Josiah Brian, James Wallace, William Biles, John Coryel, Henry Wynkoop.

Two letters being produced to the Board from General Roberdeau, and likewise a Resolve of Congress of 19th inst., urging the immediate march of the Militia.

"*Resolved*, That notwithstanding a former resolve of this Board for sending to camp the proportion of this county for the Flying Camp, this Committee will use their utmost

endeavors to forward the immediate march of the whole Militia and afford them all the assistance in their power.

"*Resolved*, That the Cartouch Boxes, Bayonet Belts, Knap and Haversacks, procured by the Commissioners and Assessors of this County, be equally distributed between the four Battalions of Associators in this County, and be delivered to their Colonels, or the next in command, who shall endeavor to distribute them among the companies in proportion to the number of men entering into actual service."

Peter Blaker and Jonathan Cooper appeared upon Citation from Captain John McKonkey, one of the Collectors of Arms in Upper Makefield, to satisfy this Board how their arms had been disposed of. Blaker said his gun had been taken away, as he supposed, by one John South who was enlisted into the service of this Province, and Cooper promised to deliver his guns the next morning, upon which they were discharged.

Joseph Shaw having made complaint that Ebenezer Owen had refused to deliver his gun and uttered expressions discovering a violent enmity to the Libertys of America, Thomas Darrach, Benjamin Fell, Richard Walker, and Robert Shewell, or any three of them, are appointed to bring the said Owen before them to enquire into this matter, to cite such witnesses as shall be necessary, and to make report to the next meeting.

Representation being made that a certain Negro, called Samson, belonging to Jeremiah Dungan, Jr., had become obnoxious to the Associators in his neighborhood and that they were afraid he would injure their families during their absence, said Dungan offering to become surety for the good behaviour of said negro until the return of the Associators, the same is ordered to be taken.

The Committee appointed to examine into the charge against Stoffel Suckafuss, reported that they had cited the said Stoffel before them, and also the witnesses in support of said charge; that it appeared the said Stoffel, in conjunction with Jacob Bougar, had assaulted Philip Grisler, and broke and destroyed a gun belonging to Captain John Jami-

son, and that said Stoffel and Jacob refused to make any compensation to the said Jamison for the loss of his gun or the expenses arisen upon their prosecution; that said Stoffel behaved himself in a very insulting, outrageous, and haughty manner, saying there was no law now and that he would do what he pleased, and that from the general conduct and language of the said Stoffel and Jacob they apprehended them to be dangerous to the safety of the State of Pennsylvania.

Therefore "*Resolved*, That the said Stoffel Suckafuss and Jacob Bougar be forthwith conveyed to the Committee of Safety of this Province, at Philadelphia, to be there confined until they shall compensate said Captain Jamison for the loss of his gun and pay the expense accrued upon this Prosecution, unless they shall give such security for those payments and their future good behaviour as shall be judged sufficient by one or more of the Neighbouring Committeemen. Cost as follows, viz.:

To Captain Jamison for his gun 50/	£2	10
To Philip Grisler, a witness attending 4 days at 2/ .		8
To Grisley Steel, attending 2 days at 2/ . . .		4
To Captain Jamison, expense for guard to bring Suckafuss to Newtown	1	4
To his trouble 6 days at 5/30 and 3 men 2 days at 2/6	2	5
	£6	11

"*Resolved*, That the officer appointed to get the Arms collected from Non-associators fitted for immediate use deliver those arms, when so fitted, to the Colonel or commanding-officer of the Battalion where the Guns have been collected, to be by him distributed among those Associators who are going into actual service and have no guns of their own.

"*Resolved*, That the arms collected from the inhabitants of Rockhill, who have now associated under Captain Ludwick Benner, be returned to them again, they paying the expense of fitting them for actual Service."

As it is doubtful whether a sufficient number of camp-kettles can be immediately procured for the use of the militia, therefore

"*Resolved*, That the Captains of the Associators procure a Pot Kettle or Frying Pan suitable to accommodate every six men at the expense of the public, and that he furnish a neighbouring Committeeman with an account thereof, to enable this Board to draw for money to discharge the same."

Agreeable to a resolve of the Committee of Safety of the 15th inst. recommending to the Committees of Inspection in the several Counties of this Province to nominate and appoint a proper number of judicious persons to distribute to distressed families whose husbands are now in actual service, the allowance they may think reasonable, and that the said Committees be empowered to draw as they shall see occasion on this Board for the necessary sums of money to be by them lodged in the hands of the persons so nominated, to be applied as above directed.

The following gentlemen were appointed for the purposes mentioned in said resolve, viz.:

Bristol Borough and *Township*, Benjamin Brittain and Robert Patterson; *Bensalem*, John Kidd; *Buckingham*, John Sampler; *Falls*, William Biles; *Lower Makefield*, Abram Mack; *Middletown*, Gabriel Vanhorn; *Newtown*, Samuel Yardley; *Southampton*, Henry Kroesen; *Warminster*, Isaiah Hough; *Warrington*, Richard Walker; *Warwick*, James Wallace; *Wrightstown*, Joseph Sackett; *Plumstead*, Thomas Dyer; *Bedminster*, Robert Darrach and Robert Maneeley; *New Brittain*, Alexander Finlay; *Hiltown*, John Kelley; *Tinicum*, Robert Patterson; *Nockamixon*, Daniel Jamison; *Springfield*, James Chapman; *Rockhill*, Samuel Smith; *Richland*, Thomas Foulke; *Durham*, Thomas Long; *Northampton*, Gilliam Cornel; *Upper Makefield*, James McNair; *Solesbury*, John Coryel; *Haycock*, Adam Lowdesleger; *Milford*, Andrew Trumbower.

The gentlemen appointed to enquire into the conduct of Jeremiah Vastine relative to his purchasing Guns report that, upon proper examination, it appeared that said Vastine buying guns had been done merely for the purpose of profit to himself, and not with any design to injure his Country,

as he had sold them to gunsmiths in Philadelphia to be fitted for service. Ordered therefore that said Vastine be acquitted from any further prosecution on this information.

As many members of this Board are going with the Militia into the Continental Service, therefore,

"*Resolved*, That, for the future, nine members met constitute a Board."

The Committee then adjourned to 12th of August, 1776, at nine o'clock.

In Committee, 12*th August*, 1776.

Present: John Kidd, John Sampler, Richard Walker, Arthur Watts, William Biles, Thomas Jones, Joseph Sackett, James Wallace, Thomas Long, Robert Patterson, John Coryel, Robert Shewell, James McNair, Robert Patterson, Esq., Samuel Yardley, Henry Wynkoop, Adam Lowdesleger.

Robert Patterson returned as a member of this Board for the Township of Bristol in the room of Mr. John Cox, resigned.

The Board being informed that John Brown had delivered his Arms, ordered that his publication be stopped.

Eleanor Graham complaining that she apprehends herself in danger of some personal injury from Benjamin John, Richard Walker and Robert Shewel are appointed to bind the said Benjamin John to his good Behaviour towards the said Eleanor Graham until the return of the Militia.

The Rev. Robert Keith is appointed Chaplain for the Battalion of the Flying Camp under the command of Colonel Hart.

Ebenezer Owen appearing personally before the Board and confessing that he had expressed himself imprudently to the Collectors of Arms, and declaring himself sorry for his indiscreet conduct, and being willing to give Security for his good behaviour until the return of the Militia, ordered that Mr. Walker and Mr. Shewel take his Security, and he be discharged from any further prosecution.

In Committee, July 29, 1776.

Present: Joseph Hart, Robert Shewel, Richard Walker, Arthur Watts, Benjamin Siegle, James McNair, Joseph Sackett, John Sampler, Benjamin Fell, Robert Patterson, Thomas Jones, Henry Wynkoop, James Wallace, Josiah Brian, John Coryel, William Biles.

Two letters being produced to the Board, and likewise a Resolve of Congress of 19th inst., urging the necessity of the immediate march of the Militia.

"*Resolved*, That, notwithstanding a former resolve of this Board for sending to Camp the proportion of this County for the Flying Camp, this Committee will use their utmost endeavours to forward the immediate march of the whole Militia and afford them all the assistance in their power."

Upon motion "*Resolved*, That the Cartouch Boxes, Bayonet Belts, Knap and Haversacks in this County, procured by the Commissioners and Assessors, be equally distributed between the four Battalions of Associators in this County, and be delivered to their Colonels or the next in command, who shall endeavor to distribute them among the companies in proportion to the number of men entering into actual Service."

Peter Blaker cited to satisfy the board on the complaint of John McKonkey, one of the Collectors of Arms in Upper Makefield, how his arms had been disposed of. Blaker says his guns had been stolen; Jonathan Cooper promised to deliver his gun; James Thornton says he hath no gun.

Joseph Shaw having made complaint that Ebenezer Owen had refused to deliver his Gun and uttered expressions discovering a violent enmity to the Libertys of America, Thomas Darrach, Benjamin Fell, Richard Walker, and Robert Shewel, or any three of them, are appointed to bring the said Owen before them and enquire into this matter, to cite such Witnesses as are necessary to support said charge, and report to the next meeting.

A complaint having been made to this Board that a Negro of Jeremiah Dungan, Jr., had said he would burn the

houses and kill the Women and children of the Associators when they marched out, said Dungan offers to enter into Bond of £100 for the good behaviour of said Negro Samson, which is considered as satisfactory until the return of the Militia.

Thomas Dyer, one of the Collectors of Arms for Plumstead, cites John Brown for having refused to satisfy the collectors how his Arms had been disposed of; the said Brown says he had two guns that he had sold, the one lately after demanded by the Collector, to one Abram Tucker who is now gone to York County, and that he had disposed of the other about five months ago; at the same time declaring he thought this Board had no authority to ask him such questions, and therefore he did not choose to inform them who the person was:

"*Resolved*, That the said John Brown, in refusing to answer such questions as were asked him by this Board and disputing its Authority in a matter so necessary for the Defence of the American States, hath acted the part of an enemy to the Libertys of America, and that he be published as such."

The Committee appointed to examine into the charge against Stoffel Suckafuss reports: That they had cited the said Stoffel before them and also the witnesses in support of said charge: it appeared that the said Stoffel, in conjunction with a certain Jacob Bougar, had assaulted Philip Grisler and broke and destroyed a Gun belonging to Captain John Jamison, and that they, the said Stoffel Suckafuss and Jacob Bougar, refused to make any compensation to the said Jamison for the loss of his Gun and the expenses arisen upon their prosecution; that he behaved himself in a very insulting, outrageous, and haughty manner, saying there was no Law now and that he would do what he pleased, and that from the general conduct and language of the said Stoffel and Jacob they apprehend them to be dangerous to the safety of the State of Pennsylvania:

Therefore "*Resolved*," [Here the minutes break off.]